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A New Locality for Amethyst.—Mr. W. W. JEFFERIS announced that Amethysts, well crystallized, and of a rich purple color, had been found this spring, for the first time, in the northern part of Newlin Township, Chester County. They were brought to the surface by deep plowing, and were supposed to be derived from a vein of this mineral.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1879.

A New Corundum Locality.—Mr. W. W. JEFFERIS remarked that a vein of blue Corundum, similar to that found in North Carolina, was struck, on the south side of the Serpentine Ridge, in Newlin Township, Chester County, a short time since. The vein is well defined, being between walls of Culsageeite, in large plates of a yellowish green color. Over 500 lbs. of massive blue corundum has been taken out within ten feet of the surface.

The Minerals of Surry County, N. C.—Mr. H. C. LEWIS communicated the following list of minerals which he had found near Dobson, Surry Co., N. C., during a recent visit to that locality:—

Native sulphur, galena, pyrrhotite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, hematite, menaccanite, magnetite, limonite, hausmannite, psilomelane, wad, hornblende, actinolite, asbestos, garnet, talc, steatite, ripidolite, chlorite.

The psilomelane occurred in a bed about 18 feet in thickness.

The magnetite was frequently polar. Native sulphur occurred in cavities in quartzite as a coarse loose powder of rounded wax-like grains, and was the result of the decomposition of pyrite.

It was also stated that rutile occurred in Alexander Co., N. C.—a new locality.

Fossil (?) Casts in Sandstone.—Dr. J. M. CARDEZA exhibited specimens of quartz sandstone (Potsdam?) which he had found lying loose upon the soil at Dutton's Mills, Pa., in which were oblong rounded casts of sandstone, about an inch in length, and similar to one another in shape. It was questioned whether they might not be fossils.

On a Peculiar Stratification in Gneiss.—Mr. THEODORE D. RAND stated that while much of the porphyritic gneiss of the belt running southwest from the Falls of Schuylkill at the surface was in rounded boulder-like masses, which had been mistaken for trap, some of it presents at the surface a thin-bedded structure with, apparently, very distinct stratification. Recently the cut of the Pennsylvania Railroad through this belt, between Merion and Elm Stations, about a mile from the boundary of the City of Philadelphia, has been widened, and on the south side may be seen an interesting section. A mass of the gneiss, perhaps 15 feet across,

has been cut through, and almost encircling it may be seen the thin-bedded variety, with its apparent stratification tangential to the mass from which, by decomposition, it evidently was derived. The true stratification of this bed of gneiss appears to be more nearly horizontal and less contorted than that of any of the rocks of the vicinity of Philadelphia.

A New Locality for Lignite.—Mr. HENRY CARVILL LEWIS announced the discovery of lignite, or brown coal, in the limestone valley of Montgomery County, a mile and a-half from the boundary of Philadelphia. He had found it, last June, at Marble Hall, close to the marble quarry, within a few feet of diggings for iron ore. In order to ascertain its extent and geological position more definitely, he had caused a shaft to be sunk 40 feet deep on the property of Henry Hitner, Esq. After passing through 38 feet of decomposed hydromica slate, there was found a stratum 4 feet thick of a tough black fire-clay filled with fragments of lignite. These fragments, sometimes a foot or more in length, lay in all directions in the clay. They had the form of twigs and branches, and, though completely turned into lignite, showed distinctly the grain of the wood. The smaller pieces were generally flattened, and often as soft as charcoal, but the larger ones were quite hard and brittle and had the shining fracture of true coal. It burned with a bright yellow flame. Frequently balls of pyrite occurred with the lignite.

The clay which contained it was underlaid by sand, and appeared to dip south. It had an east and west strike, like that of the limestone and of the iron ores. In appearance it was similar to the sub-Cretaceous plastic clays of New Jersey, which also contained lignite resembling that of Marble Hall. White kaolin and white and red potters' clay occur in the vicinity and are probably of similar age. They are all older than the surface deposits and gravel of the valley.

It was stated that while lignite is not uncommon in the Triassic formation, its occurrence in a Silurian limestone valley is of great interest. Whether referred to Tertiary or Jurassic age, it brings a new geological epoch into this region and revolutionizes our ideas of the age of many of the so-called "Primal" iron ores.

On Serpentine in Bucks County.—Mr. LEWIS called attention to the fact that while serpentine was abundant in Delaware Co., it had not been recorded as occurring anywhere in Bucks Co. He had recently noticed an exposure of it in that county, near the village of Flushing, Bensalem Township. A narrow dyke of hard, impure serpentine here crosses the road near the Neshaminy Creek. He thought that the genesis of serpentine and its relation to the gneissic rocks was still uncertain.